

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A panel for use in an assembly having a mounted component, the  
2 panel comprising:

3                 a substrate having an aperture extending through the substrate  
4 and a first capping portion at least partially about the aperture, wherein the  
5 aperture is configured to receive the mounted component;

6                 a skin having a second capping portion at least partially about the  
7 aperture; and

8                 at least one compressible layer between the substrate and the  
9 skin, wherein the first capping portion and second capping portion  
10 cooperatively engage one another to close off the at least one compressible  
11 layer between the substrate and the skin.

1           2.     The panel of claim 1, including at least one boss coupled to and  
2 extending from the substrate opposite the skin, wherein the at least one boss  
3 is configured to mount the mounted component to the substrate.

1           3.     The panel of claim 1, wherein the mounted component comprises  
2 a handle and wherein the aperture is configured to receive the handle.

1           4.     The panel of claim 1, wherein the at least one compressible layer  
2 includes a foam layer injection molded between the substrate and the skin.

1           5.     The panel of claim 1, wherein one of the first capping portion and  
2 the second capping portion includes a channel and wherein the other of the  
3 first capping portion and the second capping portion includes an end received  
4 within the channel.

1           6.     The panel of claim 5, wherein the channel extends completely  
2 about the aperture.

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1           7.     The panel of claim 1, wherein the second capping portion has a  
2 first thickness and wherein a remainder of the skin has a second lesser  
3 thickness.

1           8.     The panel of claim 1, wherein one of the first capping portion and  
2 the second capping portion includes a detent and wherein the other of the first  
3 capping portion and the second capping portion includes a detent-engaging  
4 portion.

1           9.     The panel of claim 1, wherein the first capping portion and the  
2 second capping portion at least partially overlap one another between the  
3 substrate and the skin.

1           10.    An assembly comprising:  
2                   a substrate having an aperture extending through the substrate  
3 and a first capping portion at least partially about the aperture;  
4                   a skin having a second capping portion;  
5                   at least one layer between the substrate and the skin, wherein the  
6 first capping portion and second capping portion cooperatively engage one  
7 another to close off the at least one compressible layer between the substrate  
8 and the skin; and  
9                   a component extending through the aperture.

1           11.    The assembly of claim 10, wherein the component is mounted to  
2 the substrate.

1           12.    The assembly of claim 10 including at least one boss coupled to  
2 and extending from the substrate opposite the skin, wherein the component is  
3 mounted to the at least one boss.

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1           13.    The assembly of claim 10, wherein the component comprises a  
2 handle.

1           14. The assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one compressible  
2 layer includes a foam layer injection molded between the substrate and the  
3 skin.

1           15. The assembly of claim 10, wherein the first capping portion and  
2 the second capping portion at least partially overlap one another between the  
3 substrate and the skin.

1           16. A vehicle door assembly comprising:  
2                 a substrate having an aperture extending through the substrate;  
3                 a handle extending through the aperture and having a portion  
4 opposite the substrate; and  
5                 a compressible surface coupled to the substrate and extending in  
6 close proximity to the aperture between the substrate and the portion of the  
7 handle opposite the substrate.

1           17. The assembly of claim 16 including at least one boss coupled to  
2 and extending from the substrate, wherein the handle is mounted to the at  
3 least one boss.

1           18. The assembly of claim 16 including:  
2                 a skin; and  
3                 at least one compressible layer between the substrate and the  
4 skin.

1           19. The assembly of claim 18, wherein the substrate includes a first  
2 capping portion at least partially about the aperture, wherein the skin has a  
3 second capping portion cooperatively engaging the first capping portion to  
4 close off the at least one compressible layer between the substrate and the  
5 skin.

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1           20.    The assembly of claim 18, wherein the at least one compressible  
2 layer includes a foam layer injection molded between the substrate and the  
3 skin.

1           21.    A method for manufacturing a panel for use with an assembly  
2 having a mounted component, the method comprising:

3                   providing a substrate having an aperture extending through the  
4 substrate and having a first capping portion extending at least partially about  
5 the aperture;

6                   providing a skin having a second capping portion extending at  
7 least partially about the aperture;

8                   cooperatively engaging the first capping portion and the second  
9 capping portion so as to close off a space between the skin and the substrate;  
10 and

11                  injection molding a foam material into the space between the skin  
12 and the substrate.

1           22.    A method for manufacturing a vehicle door assembly, the method  
2 comprising:

3                   providing a substrate having an aperture extending through the  
4 substrate and having a first capping portion extending at least partially about  
5 the aperture;

6                   providing a skin having a second capping portion extending at  
7 least partially about the aperture;

8                   cooperatively engaging the first capping portion and the second  
9 capping portion so as to close off a space between the skin and the substrate;  
10 and;

11                  injection molding a foam material into the spaces between the  
12 skin and the substrate; and

13                  positioning at least a portion of a door handle within the aperture.

- 1           23.   The method of claim 22 including mounting the door handle to the  
2   substrate.